

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-61 (Canceled).

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): A tandem image forming device comprising:
a plurality of image forming sections arranged side by side on an incline and each comprising a developing device and a cleaning device arranged around an image carrier; and
one of nearby ones of said plurality of image forming sections having said cleaning device thereof positioned overhanging a part of said developing device of other image forming sections.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): A method of arranging a plurality of image forming sections, each of which comprises a developing device and a cleaning device arranged around an image carrier, comprising:

arranging the plurality of image forming sections side by side in a tandem image forming device on an incline; and

positioning the cleaning device overhanging a part of the developing device of other image forming sections in one of nearby ones of said plurality of image forming sections.

Claim 64 (Canceled).

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:
an intermediate image transfer body implemented as an inclined belt;

process cartridges arranged along the intermediate image transfer body;
each of said process cartridges having a developing device and a cleaning device;
said developing device arranged above said cleaning device; and
a fixing device arranged in a space of the image forming apparatus ~~caused by~~ beneath
the inclination of the belt.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, wherein said fixing device comprises an endless belt and is configured to fix a toner image formed on a recording medium.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, wherein said inclined belt comprises an elastic layer and a smooth coating layer covering a surface of said elastic layer.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 67, wherein said elastic layer is not flexible in a circumferential direction of said intermediate image transfer body, but is elastic at at least a surface thereof and subjected to a pressure by secondary transfer.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, wherein said developing device comprises an agitating section and a developing section,
said agitating section being positioned at a lower level than the developing section
with said cleaning device overlying said agitating section.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, wherein said cleaning device comprises a cleaning blade and a fur brush.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 70, wherein said cleaning device further comprises an electric field roller configured to apply a bias to said fur brush.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, further comprising:

a plurality of image forming sections distributed along the inclined belt.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 72, wherein said image forming sections each further comprises a primary image transfer device, a charger, and a drum.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, further comprising:

a controller configured to output an emergency stop command when an error occurs.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 65, further comprising:

a sensor located on a sheet conveyance path and configured to sense a leading edge of a recording medium; and

a registration roller pair preceding an image transfer position configured to correct a skew of the recording medium.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, further comprising:

a sensor located on a sheet conveyance path and configured to sense a leading edge of a recording medium fed by a feeding operation, which occurs at a preselected interval; and
a registration roller pair preceding an image transfer position and configured to correct a skew of the recording medium.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in Claim 65, further comprising:

a turning device configured to turn a recording medium in order to form a toner image on both sides of said recording medium.

Claims 78-81 (Canceled).

Claim 82 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a transfer body implemented as an inclined belt;
a fixing device arranged in a space of the image forming apparatus ~~caused by~~ beneath the inclination of the belt;
process cartridges arranged along the transfer body;
each of said process cartridges having a developing device and a cleaning device; and
said developing device arranged above said cleaning device.

Claim 83 (Canceled).